

The Pacific

94th Year

MARCH, 1944

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No. 3

P. F. ACTIVITIES

With 550 delegates enrolled, the Pilgrim Fellowship Midwinter Conference marked a real milestone in the youth work of our State Conference.

Thirty-one groups, and many individual "apprentices" are enrolled in the Million Hour Service Plan, with more returns still to come in to the N.C.P.P. office at Plymouth House. The Million Hour Plan, which was presented at the Midwinter Conference by LaVerne Brookover, typifies the dedication of youth "For Christ and the Church Today" which was the Conference theme. Across the country, Pilgrim Fellowship members are pledging together to work a total of a million hours at specific tasks in the local church and in Christian community service. Service suggestions and record charts have gone to every group, and monthly reports will be sent in to the P. F. office, c/o Rev. Wim Meyer, at Plymouth House, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley 4, Calif.

Charters in the Northern California Pilgrim Fellowship, signifying full acceptance of the P. F. statement of purpose and the payment of \$4 state cabinet dues, have been granted to 35 groups during the past several months, and nearly half of these were conferred at the Midwinter Conferences. Virginia Phlegar, Second Vice-President, presented the charter plan and served as Conference Registrar.

The Conference Team was ably led by Mary Elizabeth Said of Santa Rosa, P. F. State President, who presided at the sessions at each of the six Conferences, and led the special "Information Please" program on Pilgrim Fellowship, in which both State and local P. F. leaders were publicly quizzed on various phases of the program.

Jack Clifton, P. F. First Vice-President, shared the leadership of the opening and closing worship services with LaVerne Brookover, and also presented the Pilgrim Fellowship Missionary projects through kodachrome slides. Jack was missed at the last two Conferences, having joined the Navy in the meantime! The Projects presented, for which our Northern California Pilgrim Fellowship pledges an annual budget of \$600, were (1) Plymouth House at U. C., (2) the Calaveras County Parish, (3) Pleasant Hill Academy in Tennessee, and (4) Student Work in West China. Some pledges were made or paid at the Conferences, and all groups seemed inclined to redouble efforts to reach their goals or go over the top before the March 31st deadline for the fiscal year comes.

Devotional Addresses climaxed the Conference program were given by Rev. Edward Ouellette, Rev. Robert Inglis, Rev. David Stowe, and Rev. Ralph Conard. Keynote addresses were given by Rev. Wim Meyer, Conference Field Secretary and Pilgrim Fellowship Adviser.

Pilgrim Fellowship Handbooks were given each delegate as a conference souvenir and practical guide. Containing 28 full pages of important information about P. F., the handbooks were the excellent work of Rev. Gordon Foster, chairman of our Conference Young People's Work Committee, and Mary Elizabeth Said, P. F. President. (Any who need a copy of the handbook for P. F. work, write to Mr. Foster at Santa Rosa.)

At each Conference a place was reserved for area P. F. business, conducted by the area president. Prominent in these

THIS LETTER WANTS AN ANSWER

To Our Friends:

The fiscal year of the Conference closes on March 31. It has been a good year. Real progress has been made. Three new churches are being added to our fellowship. Five older ones are moving up on to an entirely new level of strength and usefulness. A new director of young people's work and religious education has been added to our staff. Our children and young people are already feeling his influence. Assistance has been continued to churches in the areas where we have responsibility for maintaining religious work. We are participating in religious work in the campus of two great State schools. We continue our assistance to aged ministers and ministers' widows. This is only a small part of what is being accomplished.

May we ask from our friends and churches these two things?

1. Will church treasurers please remit all benevolence monies on hand immediately after Sunday, March 26?

2. Will the great number of friends who want to assist the Conference in its work send their individual checks before the end of the month, payable to W. Wallace Furze, Treasurer?

Yours in the comradeship of service,

HARLEY H. GILL, Superintendent.

PASTORS GATHER

More than 70 Congregational ministers gathered for luncheon at the North Congregational Church Wednesday noon of the Pastoral Conference at Pacific School of Religion. Moderator Fred R. Morrow presided. Various Conference committees outlined the ways in which they are seeking to serve the churches. Rev. Vere V. Loper spoke for the Commission on Assistance to War Victims and Services, Rev. G. Arthur Casaday for the Social Action Committee, Rev. Ralph V. Conard for the Committee on Young People's Work, and Rev. E. T. Sherman for the Christian Education Committee. Field Secretary Meyer and Superintendent Gill spoke of various phases of Conference activity. Among the guests who were present were Rev. Lawrence Wilson of Pasadena, Rev. Hugh Vernon White of Boston, Rev. Robert L. James of San Jose, and Rev. Arthur F. Swift of New York.

MODERATOR HONORED

National Moderator Ferdinand Q. Blanchard made a brief visit to Northern California immediately following the Pastoral Conference. He spoke at Pacific School of Religion and preached at the First Congregational Church of Oakland. He was welcomed at an informal dinner in the First Congregational Church of Berkeley by pastors of this area and their wives. Dr. Blanchard is pastor of the Euclid Avenue Congregational Church of Cleveland, and has been an active member of both the Home and Foreign Boards. He reports a widespread interest in the forthcoming meeting of the General Council, which will be at Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 21-28.

sections was the discussion of plans for the summer conferences. Dates for these summer camps should be on everyone's calendar:

San Joaquin Area—LAKE SEQUOIA, June 11-17.

East and West Bay—LOMA MAR, June 18-24 (tentative).

Central and Sacto. LAKEWOOD (Tahoe), June 25-July 1.

Junior High—MONTE TOYON, July 30-August 5 (tentative).

Redwood and Upper Bay—LOKOYA (Napa), August 20-26.

Advanced Conference—September 1-4.

INVENTORY

In spite of writing off more than 1,000 members by revision of the roll in 1943, our churches showed a gain in members of 196, bringing the total to 22,101, which is an all-time high for our Conference. This is encouraging, since we lost one church entirely during the year, and the three new churches will not be reported until 1944. The absentee list, although slightly less than a year ago, is still at the high figure of 3,430. 889 were received on confession of faith during the year, and others received brought the total to 1,780. 258 members were removed by death, and 271 by letter. The figures for average attendance show a slight loss, but these are not accurate due to the large number of churches that do not report.

Once again Sunday School enrollment declined, to the low figure of 9,725. The reduction in the number of members of young people's groups is not surprising when one thinks of the number of young men in the Services and the young women in industry, but these figures underline the necessity of the move which the Conference Board has made in calling a full time field secretary with responsibility for religious education and young people's work.

The amount spent by our churches for the carrying of their own programs shows an increase of \$35,000, bringing it well above a third of a million for the year. The value of church property is about \$15,000 more than that previously reported. Twenty-one churches have invested funds totalling \$152,000, and 19 churches still have debts, but the total figure is less than \$41,000. The average salary of regular full-time pastors is \$2,099, an increase of about \$180. Legacies totalling \$12,732 were received by four of our churches. Eighteen churches received no new members, and three received 100 or more. Six received more than 50 each. The giving to benevolences showed splendid gain, as was set forth in the February issue.

STOP! LOOK! LISTEN!

There are brakemen enough in the Church to last for many years. They are the people who are afraid the Church will move ahead too fast. What we want is more firemen.

... from the Plymouth "Christian Neighbor."

Hail, Orinda!

On the afternoon of February 4 pastors and delegates from Bay Association churches met at Orinda, heard the application of the Orinda Church for membership, received reports concerning the organization of the Church, its opportunities and prospects. By unanimous vote it was received into fellowship. Following a delicious dinner in the attractive and commodious home of one of the members, a program of welcome was carried out, in which the Moderator, Rev. Donald F. Gaylord, extended the welcome of the Association to the Church, which was responded to by Mr. A. W. Elkinton. Rev. Jason Noble Pierce of San Francisco offered the prayer of recognition and Rev. Vere V. Loper of Berkeley preached the sermon. Mr. William Penn Mott, president of the Orinda board of trustees, responded to the charge to the church, which was given by Superintendent Gill. Rev. Clarence Reidenbach offered the closing prayer and benediction.

The population of the Orinda community is about 3000. At present the church has a membership of 66 and there are 110 enrolled in the Sunday School. The Church owns an acre of land, a most excellent site, and has something like \$1500 cash in a building fund. Through the foresightedness of one of the members, a considerable amount of building material is on the ground and plans for the first unit are being drawn. The current budget of the church is completely subscribed. A new young people's group is in process of formation, and there is an active women's organization. Rev. Miles B. Fisher is the beloved pastor.

The Church is beginning its relationship by making provision for benevolences in its budget and by subscribing to The Pacific and The Missionary Herald.

ARLINGTON NEXT

On Wednesday, March 15, the Bay Association will convene at the Arlington Avenue Fellowship House at 3:30 on a very unusual occasion. The Association will examine Mr. Herbert Dimock, looking toward his ordination and will in the same session receive a request from the new Arlington Avenue Community Church for membership. Careful guidance has been given to the Church in the process of its organization, and Mr. Dimock has already passed the examination of the Conference Committee on Ministerial Standing. The Church has adopted by-laws, elected officers, and closed a charter membership list of 68.

A fellowship dinner will be served at the North Congregational Church. In case the Association finds Mr. Dimock qualified for ordination and the application of the Church for membership in order, a combined public service of ordination of minister and reception of the Church will be held in the evening.

STATE CONFERENCE

It will be remembered that the annual Conference meeting held at Plymouth Church, Oakland, last October, referred to the Board of Directors all plans regarding the time and place of the 1944 conference. The Board is now prepared to announce that the conference will be October 17-19 and it will be held at the First Congregational Church, Oakland.

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Harley H. Gill, Editor

Northern California

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First Report

The first report of benevolence giving for the year is herewith set forth. As is always the case, the first two months scarcely furnish a dependable index of the trend of giving. After the effort of making remittances for the year on or before January 10, some churches do not send their money in until toward the end of the first quarter. But the figures, such as they are, are encouraging. Since the close of the Conference fiscal year is on March 31, it will be greatly appreciated if treasurers will gather all monies in their hands and forward them immediately after the last Sunday of the month.

	Jan. 11 to Feb. 29, '44	Jan. 11 to Feb. 28, '43
Alameda	8.82	\$ 85.89
Alturas	20.00	
Auburn	20.00	
Berkeley, First	1,47.83	928.87
North	63.07	66.60
Cloverdale	18.11	6.79
Crockett	24.00	
Eureka	112.14	63.27
Fresno, First	300.00	450.00
Pilgrim	100.00	
Glen Ellen		10.00
Lodi, First	400.00	300.00
Marinez		52.32
Murphys	81.00	81.00
Oakland, First	890.00	880.00
Pilgrim	10.00	6.00
Plymouth	210.77	115.68
Oroville	11.43	
Pacific Grove		18.80
Paradise	50.00	50.00
Pennigrove	44.17	
Petaluma		25.98
Pittsburg		30.80
Porterville	200.00	
Ripon	60.18	22.61
Sacramento	160.00	11.00
San Carlos		13.00
San Francisco, First	81.98	137.49
Ocean View	20.00	15.00
Richmond		37.50
San Jose	118.67	150.00
San Leandro	11.40	
San Mateo	70.00	90.30
Santa Cruz	175.00	
Santa Rosa	12.50	11.00
Sonoma		31.40
Stockton	39.00	34.86
Tulare	75.00	60.00
Reno, Nevada	55.40	33.22
Miscellaneous and Individual.	117.95	33.27
	\$4,688.42	\$3,978.65

SPRING ASSOCIATIONS

It is expected that Mrs. Scott Haymond, president of the Federation of Congregational Women, Rev. James E. Walter of the Missions Council, Boston, Mass., Field Secretary William W. Meyer, and Superintendent Gill will be the team of visitors for the spring meetings of the Associations. The schedule of dates and places is as follows:

Thursday, April 21—Sacramento Valley, at Auburn.

Tuesday, April 25—Santa Clara, at San Carlos.

Wednesday, April 26—Redwood Empire, at Sebastopol.

Thursday, April 27—Upper Bay, at Pittsburg.

Tuesday, May 2—San Joaquin, at Parlier.

Wednesday, May 3—Central, at Ripon.

Thursday, May 4—Bay, at Hayward.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 5, 6, and 7—German, at Fresno Zion.

What One Church Did in 1943

Here is what one church did in 1943. Lodi First has come about as near the goal of giving as much to benevolences as to local expense as any church in our fellowship. Salaries during the year amounted to \$3,307, operating expenses to \$603, and benevolences to \$3,633. In addition, more than \$1300 was spent in improving the property. Gifts to benevolences include the following: Congregational world-wide missions, the Unit Plan, Committee for War Victims, China Relief, Pacific School of Religion, Federal Council of Churches, the Red Cross, Hammond Hospital, War Chest, Boy Scouts, Goodwill Industries, Infantile Paralysis Fund, and various other worthy causes.

PLYMOUTH HOUSE YOUTH ASSIST MANY GOOD CAUSES

Plymouth House has contributed \$50 for the World Student Service fund, \$40 for Pilgrim Fellowship Projects, and \$25 to help send its president, Gloria Sproul, to the Worcester Student Planning Conference,—a notable record. Each Saturday evening the House has been open for recreation, and discussions on vital subjects are held every Sunday evening. Plymouth House was the meeting place for the seminar for Student Workers at the Pastoral Conference. Rev. David Stowe, the Director, was speaker at two of the Pilgrim Fellowship mid-winter rallies.

Rev. Gustavus L. Brakemeyer

Rev. Gustavus L. Brakemeyer passed away in Fresno on Sunday, February 20, at the age of 83. He was born in Drake, Missouri. He was educated at Elmhurst College and Chicago Theological Seminary, and received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Coeur d'Alene College in recognition of fifty years of service as a minister. In 1886 he was married to Hulda Helmchen, who, with three daughters and a son, survives him. He served pastorates in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and South Dakota before coming to California. In this Conference he was pastor of the German speaking churches at Lodi and Biola.

For a number of years he has been a devoted member of the First Congregational Church of Fresno, where he has been a deacon and has frequently officiated at communion services and in the christening of children when the church was without a minister.

Funeral services were conducted by Superintendent Harley H. Gill. In both German and English speaking churches where he was known, he holds a secure place in the respect and affection of all as a faithful minister of Jesus Christ.

MARYETTE H. LUM

Miss Maryette H. Lum, who had become well known in Northern California since her return from the mission field, passed away on February 17 at the home of her sister in San Jose. Miss Lum was born in Denver 54 years ago and has been a missionary in China since 1917. She taught music and was at her post in Bridgman Academy when the Japanese invaded North China. Since her return she spent a year at work in the Tule Lake Relocation Center for Japanese.

OAKLAND, PILGRIM. Building materials which have been purchased and volunteer labor are transforming the interior of the church. The Pilgrim Fellowship group was chartered at an impressive ceremony conducted by Field Secretary Meyer and a deputation of young people from Berkeley. A potluck supper is held each month for the entire membership. An attendance and new membership contest is under way in the Church School. Rev. Byron Eshelman is pastor.

LENTEN SHARING

During this Lenten season, when many churches are endeavoring to secure pledges for the work of the Committee for War Victims and Services, it is heartening to realize afresh the devotion, open-mindedness, and wisdom with which our national organization is dealing with the problems that confront its apportionment of the funds which we raise.

Month by month allocations are changing in accordance with the conditions in different parts of the world. In the past year we have helped some twenty different forms of relief work, the largest sums having been used for civilian relief in China, Greek relief, aid to our chaplains, and help to churches in war areas in this country, suddenly confronted by needs far greater than any previously known.

Sixty dollars will care for a Chinese war orphan for a year, \$25 will enable the father of a family whose business has been bombed out to reopen and keep his household together. Clothing is greatly needed in Greek refugee camps. Almost any church can fill a box which may mean everything to those who have nothing.

In 1943 twenty-six hundred churches gave to the Fund, two thousand in single or occasional offerings, six hundred under the Sacrificial Plan. Those giving regularly are carrying most of the load. Since the fall of 1940, the Congregational Christian Churches have raised \$750,000. How splendid it would be if we could reach the million mark by the time the General Council meets in June! A gift of such size may not, in itself, seem a huge sum, but as a token of sympathetic remembrance from Christians of America to the countless sufferers throughout the world, and to our own men in service its value cannot be overestimated.

Miriam S. Converse.

DAN RUGGLES IN AUSTRALIA

A letter from somewhere in New Guinea has come to the editor from Technical Sergeant Daniel T. Ruggles of Sonoma. Mr. Ruggles, who has been organist and choir director at the Sonoma church, will be remembered by many as the fine young man who served as moderator of the Redwood Empire Association two or three years ago. He has continued his musical interest in the Army, having organized the Halcyon Singers, who have given many concerts for American troops and over the radio in the South Pacific. In recent letters he told of meeting our own Dr. Loyal Lincoln Wirt, who is in Australia and New Zealand as special fraternal representative from our Congregational churches to the armed forces and to Congregationalism in the Anzac region. He forwarded a snapshot picture showing a large sign in front of the church in which Dr. C. Bernard Cockett is pastor, advertising a sermon by Dr. Cockett and the singing of Negro spirituals by Mr. Ruggles. It will be remembered that Dr. Cockett was in this country less than a year ago and was given an honorary degree by Pacific School of Religion.

RALLY FOR JUNIOR HIGHS MARCH 12TH AT OAKLAND FIRST

With a short but exciting program, young people of Junior High (Intermediate) age and their teachers and advisers will meet at First Church Oakland, Sunday afternoon, March 12th, from 2 to 5 p. m. The program will include the sound movie, "The Book for the World of Tomorrow." Detailed announcements will be forthcoming.

WEAVERVILLE. The Every Member Canvass was entered into with splendid spirit and the results for the first day were considerably beyond expectation. Three adults were received into membership on confession of faith at the February communion. Rev. P. N. Bennett, the pastor, was in attendance at the Pastoral Conference.

ALOHA!

Rev. Theodore E. Schulz of Alturas has been called by the Hawaiian Evangelical Association for service in a larger parish on the island of Maui, and he has accepted to begin work as soon as transportation to the Islands can be arranged. Mr. Schulz closed his work at Alturas at the end of February. He has served our Cedarville Church as well as Alturas in recent months, and has also been of fine assistance to the church at Likely and to Sunday schools in other localities. Mrs. Schulz has been an able assistant in parish work, in the musical program of the church, and in the church school. Many Congregationalists of Northern California will deeply regret to see them leave our area, but are most happy that they will continue religious work in a truly missionary field. The Alturas Church will be supplied by the Rev. Mr. R. D. Licklider, a Baptist who has been for a time at the interdenominational church at Central Valley.

OZAKI SERVES

During the past year Rev. Norio Ozaki, who has remained at the Community Hospital at San Mateo in order to receive medical treatments, has kept in touch with the members of his congregation in Topaz Relocation Center and other places. He has sent out more than 1500 mimeographed letters, many Easter and Christmas greetings, and hundreds of hand written letters, all of them to encourage and strengthen his people. In addition he has carried on services of worship among the hospital patients and has been head gardener in the grounds of the hospital. He hopes soon to be transferred to Topaz.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

The editor of The Pacific has had an interesting letter from Rev. Alfred Paul Focht, formerly pastor at Guerneville, who was ordained last summer. He is now pastor at Colchester, Conn., a small town in which there is a large foreign element. On Christmas eve his engagement to Miss Doris Heinerle of San Francisco was announced. Miss Heinerle is a teacher at Antioch.

George Aki, a Chaplain

Rev. George Aki, who was ordained as a Congregational minister while interned at Tanforan Assembly Center and has been one of the splendid religious leaders in the relocation camp at Topaz and later at Jerome, Arkansas, has been accepted for the chaplaincy in the U. S. Army, and is in attendance at chaplains' school at Harvard University.

AMERICAN BOARD FORMERLY AT WORK IN BOMBARDED ISLANDS

In 1894 the Board had twenty-three missionaries at work in the very islands that are today being bombarded and recaptured by American and Australian forces. For nearly forty years the five "Morning Stars" made their annual voyages among those lonely atolls with supplies, mails and workers, and many elderly friends who now read these words were, with the present writer, stockholders at ten and twenty-five cents a share in those romantic missionary "Morning Stars" of long ago.

SAN FRANCISCO, GRACE UNITED.

Rev. Donald F. Gaylord conducts a pastor's class for church membership on Thursdays at four. Mr. Harold Hill, who has been student assistant, has been compelled to discontinue his work because of heavy schedule of studies.

Contributions are being made and plans drawn for a children's chapel. Nearly \$5000 has been raised by the parish toward the wiping out of the building debt.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

SUISUN. Rev. Melvyn E. Pratt has been called into the chaplaincy of the United States Army and leaves after the first Sunday in March for the training school at Harvard University. Mr. Pratt has been with the Suisun church only a few months, but splendid progress has been made. Rev. Huber Burr will supply the church during the remainder of March, and, beginning with April 1, Robert Carlson, student at the Pacific School of Religion, will become the pastor. Mr. Carlson did excellent work in student summer service in Modoc County last summer and has been on the staff of Plymouth Church, Oakland, since the autumn of 1942. The new young people's group presented the church with a unique wooden plaque showing the names of 18 men in the services.

SAN FRANCISCO OCEAN VIEW. The choir is growing, and has new anthems recently purchased by the church. A George Washington party, sponsored by the Young Adults was a most enjoyable occasion. The Ladies' Guild has been divided into two groups which will compete in activities of raising money, neither team telling the other of its success until the end of the year. It is the hope of the church that financial support may be secured which will make possible the full-time service of Mr. Eugene Sill, the pastor, after his graduation from Pacific School of Religion.

FRESNO, FIRST. Rev. John H. Gregg has sufficiently recovered from injuries sustained in an assault in January to open a series of Lenten sermons on "Religious Resources," or "Finding a Religion to Live By," beginning March 5. While recuperating he completed an extension course on "The Principles, Techniques, and Materials of Counseling," under the direction of Dr. Paul Popenoe. This church, which is contributing to the financial support of a weekday religious education program, is one of ten centers where children gather for instruction.

PORTERVILLE. A hundred and fifty men attended the Lincoln's birthday men's dinner and heard President A. C. McGiffert of Berkeley on the topic "Three Levels of Peace Making." A committee of men managed the preparation and service of the dinner. At the traditional Colonial Tea, a strictly women's affair, hostesses wore old-time costumes, and beautiful appointments and music were provided. Rev. Willis L. Goldsmith is pastor.

CALAVERAS COUNTY. Heavy snows have interfered with services at White Pines. At Angels Camp a group of young people are attending a class in preparation for membership, led by the pastor, Rev. John G. Dickey. A helpful conference for Sunday School and young people's workers of the Angels Camp and Murphys churches was held with Field Secretary Meyer.

PALO ALTO. A junior choir of thirty voices has been organized by the music director, Mrs. Clara Roberts. They will assist in the Easter service. Midweek meetings during Lent are built around the great hymn writers. On Monday evenings Rev. Augustine Jones, the pastor, leads a class in the study of the Epistle to the Romans in his home.

OAKLAND, FRUITVALE. The "Friendly Page" for January was printed under the caption of "A Year From God For God," and listed sermon topics for the month, most of them devoted to "Finding God: In Our Savior, In Ourselves, and In Other People." Rev. J. B. Orr is pastor.

RENO, NEVADA. This church had the privilege of a visit by the Conference moderator, Rev. Fred R. Morrow, who preached on Sunday, January 23. Four new windows in the choir loft, presented by friends of the church as memorials, were installed. Each one symbolizes one of the four Gospels. Rev. William Moll Case has presented his resignation but the church has not yet had opportunity to act upon it. Dr. Case is the dean of the pastors of the churches in our Conference, having been at Reno since 1925. During these years the church has been greatly strengthened, the building improved and additional property secured. He has in every way cooperated to the utmost with our program of work, and his going, if the resignation is accepted, will leave a serious gap in our ranks.

BENICIA. Rev. Elmo D. Wolfe of Addison, Michigan, formerly of Southern California, has been called as pastor of the church and will begin work before Easter. Mr. Wolfe was a leader in young people's work of the Southern California Conference and is a young man of fine ability and great energy. The Benicia church has been making fine progress with Rev. N. F. Sanderson as interim pastor, and with the coming of the new minister is prepared, in cooperation with the Conference and the Commission on Defense Areas, to present a program to the community calculated to reach our share of the very large number of newcomers.

OROVILLE. A splendid Lenten program is under way, with a series of sermons and also of talks to the Church School by Rev. Frank E. Carlson, the pastor. On four consecutive Wednesday evenings a group, known as the Covenanters, will meet to train themselves in the purpose and method of living out the implications of the covenant they took on joining the church. On Sunday evenings there will be a School of Religious Experience, using E. Stanley Jones' "Abundant Living." Each evening will be under the leadership of lay people.

SANTA CRUZ. Brotherhood Day was observed by a joint service with the Hebrew congregation, the speaker being Col. Gus Ringold, who has seen service in both World Wars. Many groups meet in the church and are served by the women of the church, who do work for Red Cross, British Relief, the U.S.O., and other worthy causes. Rev. H. S. Mahood is pastor.

ALAMEDA. Rev. Ralph V. Conard is preaching a series of Lenten sermons on "The Cross in Modern Life," using the Seven Last Words as texts. The young people of the Church were recently hosts to a group of visitors from two Jewish synagogues, one in Oakland and one in Alameda, a return call for one made by the Alameda young people last October.

SANTA ROSA. The sermon topics announced by Rev. Gordon L. Foster, pastor, for Lent are as follows: "Salvation—the experience of life in Christ," "Repentance—the first condition of life in Christ," "Faith—the second condition of life in Christ," "Self-Discipline—the safeguard of life in Christ," and "Ethical Results of life in Christ."

OAKLAND, PLYMOUTH. Rev. Robert Inglis, pastor, is conducting two classes in church membership, one on Saturdays at 1 p. m. and the other on Sunday evenings at 6. Brotherhood week was celebrated by the appearance of the great Negro tenor, Roland Hayes. More than \$450 for the use of the Interracial Committee was made available by this recital.

SAN FRANCISCO, FIRST. This church entertained the Bay Association for its annual meeting on January 11. The Tuesday evening "Friendly Institute" continues with "The Family Clinic," by Dr. H. E. Morrison, and a new course on "A Method for Living Abundantly in a War-Torn and Dissipating World," by Rev. D. C. Williams. On recent Sunday evenings the pastor, Rev. Jason Noble Pierce, has been speaking on "Is America Afraid of Jews and Religious Prejudices?" "Is America Afraid of Negroes and Racial Prejudices?" "Is America Afraid of Catholics and Organized Religion?" and "Is America Afraid of Communists and Militant Politics?" The Church was host to the World Day of Prayer service, with Hugh Vernon White as the speaker.

TULARE. At a recent Mother-Daughter banquet sponsored by the Camp Fire Girls favorable comment was made on the large proportion of Congregational women who were serving as leaders in the movement in Tulare. Junior boys, assisted by the pastor, Rev. Arthur L. Rice, have been at work to build a new worship center for their department in the Sunday School. Meeting a very favorable response in a series of six meetings last fall the joint Congregational-Methodist committee on Post-War Planning begins another series in March, bringing the contribution of various foreign groups to our American life. Groups locally represented will be especially featured.

GUERNEVILLE. Three hunters provided the meat at a church sponsored elk dinner, the young people taking charge of publicity and ticket sales. Two hundred fifteen people partook of the excellent menu. The speaker of the evening was Judge Comstock of Santa Rosa, who spoke on "Youth and the Community." Mr. Henry Hayden, the pastor, took eleven members of the Community Church Boys' Club to enjoy a day in Berkeley. New Pilgrim Hymnals have been purchased and dedicated.

CAMPBELL. The Plymouth Youth Forum, under the auspice of the Pilgrim Fellowship groups of the Church, has presented excellent speakers on Finland, Poland, and China. A three year building plan was adopted at the annual meeting and is under way. Rev. J. H. Bennett, pastor of the Church and Cubmaster, presented 34 Cub Scouts in a tableau at the Scout circus in the San Jose Civic Auditorium at a Scout Week program attended by 3000 people.

SAN CARLOS. On the first Sunday of February the Church celebrated the fifth anniversary of the coming of the pastor, Rev. H. J. Loken. During that time the enrollment of the Sunday School has jumped from 118 to 320, the membership of the church from 49 to 203, and the new building program has been carried out with all but a modest portion of the cost provided.

PACIFIC GROVE. Pending the securing of a new minister a church secretary has been employed. She is the wife of an Army chaplain, and has been trained in Christian work. After the war she expects to go to Brazil as a missionary. The church has extended a call to Rev. Ivan D. Welsh of Wheaton, Illinois. It is earnestly hoped that he will accept.

RIO VISTA. Each Thursday evening during Lent there is a potluck supper prior to a service of worship. Music, hymn history, Bible study, famous religious art pictures, and kodachrome slides will be used. Rev. Edwin T. Sherman is pastor.

BERKELEY, SOUTH COMMUNITY. During February the average congregation was 110. The Social Action Committee has a book display where people may browse after the church service. The cost of a record player for social events has been provided. A good staff of well-trained teachers is the solid foundation for the Church School. A survey of the recreational and social needs of the community is being made. A thorough job of renewing and repairing the roof has been completed, and plans are under way for painting the outside of the building, landscaping the grounds, and putting up curtains and drapes. The project is under the direction of Mr. Roy Nichols and Mr. R. K. Winters.

REDWOOD CITY. World Day of Prayer services were held in this church. The Women's Guild is using a new style of meeting, coming together at 1:30 for dessert followed by devotions, music, and a social hour. Each member either sews or knits. Sunday School attendance has been stimulated by contests and goals, and a neighborhood census is planned under Superintendent Andrew Stewart. Rev. Charles E. Ward, pastor of the church, is in charge of the first week of a new venture in which five denominations cooperate in a fifteen-minute noon devotional period for High School students adjacent to the school. The church Scout troop raised its first Eagle Scout at a February Court of Honor.

LODI, FIRST. Congregational, Methodist, and Christian churches sponsored a week of sermons by Rev. G. Arthur Casaday of Mill Valley, on the theme, "The Way of Victory." He also spoke to the young married people's group on "Foundations for a Christian Home." The same three churches are uniting for Sunday evening services in Lent, the pastors preaching on the Seven Words from the Cross. Each pastor will have study classes during the same period. Rev. A. R. Boone is pastor.

SAN MATEO. Monthly church night programs for 1944 are planned. At the first, Professor Harry J. Rathbun of Stanford spoke on "Can Christianity Save Civilization?" This church is participating with others in San Mateo County in the interdenominational schools of weekday religious education. Rev. Sidney H. Buckham the pastor, is preaching a series of sermons in March on "Four Promises of Jesus." Martin Hall was the speaker at the March church fellowship night.

SARATOGA. The weekday school of religion is definitely on the way, including children from the fifth to the eighth grades. A war time service committee is keeping in touch with all the boys and girls of the church who are in war services by means of a monthly bulletin. Four weekly fellowship suppers are being held, with neighboring pastors as speakers. Rev. Fred R. Morrow is pastor.

MARTINEZ. A "friendship garden" forms a most interesting project, with members contributing shrubs and bedding plants and labor. Rev. T. T. Giffen, pastor, was taken suddenly ill on February 26, but at last account is making very satisfactory recovery.

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WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

Edited by Miss Helen M. Perkins

Next meeting, as usual, in First Church, Oakland, March 16.

1944 WORK UNDER WAY

Although the number at the Executive Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 16, was small, the first regular meeting of the Federation, the following day, was well attended. Mrs. R. A. Fuller, new Thank Offering Secretary, cheered us by pointing out the steady increase in the Thank Offering gifts over a period of ten years, from \$740.00 in 1933 to \$2,649.00 in 1943. She emphasized what we are, perhaps, apt to forget, that the name of these gifts is significant. In other words, much as we desire large amounts to carry on the work we undertake, the matter of primary importance is that these gifts shall be the expression of our thankfulness for blessings received. So we shall live with our Thank Offerings through the year, instead of scurrying down into our pockets just before the November meeting. Mrs. Fuller referred to the action of the Executive Board the previous day, whereby the goal this year is to be \$2,800, to be divided in accordance with the Conference percentages, 54% for the Conference, which in the case of our Thank Offerings means Grace United Children's Work in San Francisco, and the new Arlington Community Church in North Berkeley; 22% for Foreign work (Means School for Girls at Dondi); 21% for Homeland work (Grants Hospital, for nurse's salary), and 3% for Social Action. In round numbers, these will mean \$500 for Grace United, \$1,000 for Arlington Community Church, \$600 for Dondi, \$600 for Grants and \$100 for Social Action, as yet undesignated in our Thank Offering budget.

Miss Coxhead, Social Relations Secretary, spoke of the need of endeavor to curb "songs of hate" in our daily papers and in our speech. She hoped that the \$100 mentioned above might be allocated for our use in this state as so much must be done to get our young people ready for post-war peace.

Mrs. E. B. Kientz, Young People's Secretary, gave us the set-up of the Conference Religious Education Committee, which she considers a fine one. She urged that church schools get in touch with Miss Blanche Carrier of the Northern California Council of Churches, who is ready to help in planning week-day religious instruction, and also Rev. William W. Meyer, new Field Secretary of the Conference. She recommended for teachers a book by Margaret Slattery, "A Primer for Teachers." The Executive Board voted to continue the Young People's contest for another year. There will be two groups, High School and Junior High. Details are in Mrs. Kientz' hands.

Mrs. Philip Greisinger, Reading List Chairman, reminded us that her Annual Report comes at the Spring meeting and that the dead-line for reports to be included, either from groups or from individuals, is April 1. She will welcome reports from any, even if not connected with an accredited group, and these will be credited to the church to which the reader belongs. Mrs. Greisinger listed two "must" books for readers: "The Apostle," by Sholem Asch, and "The Silent Billion Speak" by Frank C. Laubach. "The Robe" by Lloyd Douglas may be substituted for "The Apostle." In addition to these, she listed for Honor Roll reading: "The Life of George Washington Carver" by Rackham Holt; "Angel Mo' and Her Son," by M. Helm; "Syrian Yankee," by Salom Rizki; "Journey into America," by Donald Peattie—all these in Section IV; in Sections I to III: "Abundant Living," by E. Stanley Jones; "New Eyes for Invisibles,"

by Rufus M. Jones; "One World," by Wendell Willkie; "A Time for Greatness," by Herbert Agar; "New World A-Coming" (Negro problem) by Roi Ottley; "Burma Surgeon," by Dr. G. S. Seagrave.

In the absence of Mrs. Ernest Evans, Foreign Field Secretary, her report was given by her efficient new assistant, Mrs. James H. Price, whom we welcome back to the fold with much pleasure after her years away from us. Mrs. Price told us of the Foreign Missionary Conference recently held in Chicago, with members of 122 Foreign Boards, representing 60 different denominations—the largest interdenominational conference of its kind ever held. She spoke of Rev. Elmer Galt, taking the place in China of Rev. Robert McClure, separated from his family for four years; of Rev. H. W. Robinson, who, after travelling thousands of miles on a ticket marked "Destination Unknown," is now at Yenching University, Cheng-tu. This university is the union of the remnants of seven schools. One announcement will be of especial interest to us: a book by Dr. Mary Cushman—"A Missionary Doctor"—will be published by May 10. The price will be \$2.75, and it will appeal to us not merely because we heard Dr. Cushman during her time in Northern California, but also because the locale of Dr. Cushman's experience is practically identical with our Thank Offering project at Dondi.

Mrs. Scott Haymond and Superintendent Harley H. Gill both brought us stimulating messages from their recent trips to the Midwinter Conference. Besides the general sessions, Mrs. Haymond had had meetings with the women Presidents of other States, and Dr. Gill with other State Superintendents. Mrs. Haymond had been delighted to hear Dr. Mary Branch of Tillotson College. Dr. Branch told of the new applicant for college entrance who asked if, in view of his straitened finances, he might be allowed to pay for "one-ition instead of tu-ition" of instruction. She spoke of the growth of the college from 65 when she first took the presidency to 483 at the present time. For the first time the Chairman of the Missions Council is a woman: Miss Helen Kenyon. Miss Kenyon received an ovation when she took office. Mrs. Haymond told of the grateful letter from an over-seas chaplain, saying how much good had been accomplished by a communion sent through the Council for Social Action.

Dr. Gill, who is a Vice-President of the American Board, told us of hearing Earl Ballou, caught in the Philippines after Pearl Harbor, speak of his experiences without bitterness; of the American Board plans to send out 165 new missionaries as soon as conditions make it possible, some of whom will go in this current year; of the special need for workers in social and industrial fields; of the needs in the Near East, Mexico and Africa, especially in Angola; of the greatly increased cost both in sending and in maintaining our missionaries on the field now (\$5.00 per person per day in China at the present time); of the constant effort on the part of the American Board to be more closely affiliated with other denominations, and to consult more with the Nationals in every field.

According to one member of our Board, the most rewarding experience of the two-day session this month was the close of the Thursday morning session when Mrs. Bayard Buckham led our devotions.

Her thought was spiritual replenishment, and how far she brought it home to us is shown by the comment of one of the ladies: "I sat there and felt myself being quieted."

Four sets of dates were given us at different times through the two meetings, which we must bear in mind: Our own Spring meeting at San Mateo, April 20; the M. E. M. Conference at San Anselmo, July 26 to 31 (Miss Mary Seely, of our own Board, is Congregational member on the M.E.M. Board); Northern California Conference Annual Meeting, October 17 to 19; and, outside our own state, the meeting of the General Council at Grand Rapids, June 21 to 28.

"SCOUTS OF CIVILIZATION"

Things have happened in this war that bring this phrase to mind. One Sunday evening a few weeks ago over the radio there was reproduced the story of the early missionary conquest of the Hawaiian Islands. The first interviews of Hiram Bingham and Asa Thurston with King Liholiho, securing his permission to found two mission stations, and the statements made at that time by the missionaries of their farsighted purpose in making the journey to Hawaii have been fulfilled in missionary history. They were the Scouts of Civilization in the Pacific world. By 1867 the American Board withdrew its support and the well-organized groups of churches, aided by the educational system of the Islands, the established courts, newly given land tenure, had brought an organized Christian civilization to one of the most unlikely spots of the earth. These Scouts of Civilization still carry on their work as pioneers without regard to danger, disease or death in every part of the world.

WHAT ONE SERVICE MAN REALLY THINKS

Captain Lawrence C. Baldwin was captured in the Philippines and is in a Japanese prison camp. His mother and other members of the family are in our Berkeley First parish. On a card recently received he wrote, "Read Van Dyke's Prayer." These are the lines referred to: "These are the gifts I ask of Thee, Spirit serene—
Strength for the daily task;
Courage to face the road;
Good cheer to help me bear the traveller's load,
And for the hours of rest that come between,
An inward joy in all things heard and seen.

These are the sins I fain would have Thee take away—
Malice and cold disdain;
Hot anger, sullen hate;
Scorn of the lowly, envy of the great;
And discontent that casts a shadow gray
On all the brightness of a common day."
—Henry Van Dyke

OFFICERS ELECTED

At the annual meeting of the Bay Association, an account of which was crowded out of the February issue, the following officers were elected:

Moderator, Rev. Donald F. Gaylord; Vice-Moderator, Rev. Ivan Y. Wong; Assistant Registrar, Mr. Herbert Dimock; Board of Directors: Mr. R. W. Kretsinger, Miss Edith M. Clark, Rev. Jason Noble Pierce, Miss Mary Coxhead, Rev. Ralph V. Conard.

Credentials Committee: Rev. Miles B. Fisher, Rev. Godfrey Matthews; (holders: Rev. Vere V. Loper and Rev. A. C. McGiffert).

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